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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/698,195	10/30/2000	Jan F. Jannink	GIGA-001/01US	6733

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EXAMINER

WANG, JIN CHENG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2672

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/698,195

Applicant(s)

JANNINK, JAN F.

Examiner

Jin-Cheng Wang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 and 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Notice of Change in Art Unit

1. The Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 2672.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 18, line 3 of claim 18, "a item (j)" should be "item (j)". Appropriate correction of all mistakes is required.
3. The applicant or their representatives are urged to review the specification and submit corrections for all mistakes of a grammatical, clerical, or typographical nature.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 18 is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 18, line 3 of claim 18, "a item (j)" should be "item (j)". Appropriate correction of all mistakes is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

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(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

6. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rajaraman et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,366,910.

7. Claim 1:

The Rajarama reference teaches a method of information structuring in a data set containing a plurality of items (see the abstract), comprising:

- (a) Ranking (column 1, lines 11-22) related objects based upon relationship strength (e.g., “scoring each classification in the classification hierarchy to indicate the degree to which the classification contains items that *match the search criteria*, i.e., items with affinity relationship, and displaying them in order based on their score”. See column 3, lines 8-30);
- (b) Clustering related objects (e.g., for each of the “shirts” classification, there are “T-shirts”, “casual shirts”, “dress shirts” sub-classifications. See column 3, lines 8-30); and
- (c) Computing the number of affinity charts (or relevancy graph) per object (A variable number depending on the differences in the scores of the classifications can be selected. See column 5, lines 52-64).

Claim 2:

The claim 2 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 1 except additional claimed limitation of calculating an affinity value and ordering according to the affinity value. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of

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calculating a strength/relevancy value and ordering according to the strength/relevancy value (column 3, lines 8-30).

Claim 3:

The claim 3 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 2 except additional claimed limitation of objective measurement. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of the objective measurement (the search criteria of "tv", column 1, lines 23-59, and column 3, lines 8-30).

Claim 4:

The claim 4 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 2 except additional claimed limitation of objective measurement. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of the subjective measurement (the search criteria, column 2, lines 9-23, column 3, lines 8-30 and column 4, lines 3-4).

8. Claim 5:

The Rajaraman reference teaches a method of generating a graphic layout (see the abstract), comprising:

- (a) Selecting a principal node (classification) for said graphical layout (figure 4);
 - (b) Generating at least one affinity chart in connection with said principal node (figure 4);
- and Rank (column 1, lines 11-22, and column 3, lines 8-30).

Claim 6:

The claim 6 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation of an affinity curve. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of an affinity curve (figure 4).

Claim 7:

The claim 7 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation of a list of related items. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of a list of related items (column 3, lines 8-30).

Claim 8:

The claim 8 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation of positioning the selected principal node at a prominent location in said graphical layout. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of positioning the selected principal node at a prominent location in said graphical layout (figure 4).

Claim 9:

The claim 9 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation of computing the size of the item. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of computing the size of the item (A variable number depending on the differences in the scores of the classifications can be selected. See column 5, lines 52-64).

Claim 10:

The claim 10 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 6 except additional claimed limitation of the gradients to suggest item affinity level. However, the

Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of the gradients to suggest item affinity level (column 4, lines 20-44).

Claim 11:

The claim 11 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 10 except additional claimed limitation of the color gradient. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of the color gradient (column 4, lines 20-44).

Claim 12:

The claim 12 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 10 except additional claimed limitation of the size gradient. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of the size gradient (column 4, lines 20-44).

Claim 13:

The claim 13 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 6 except additional claimed limitation of preventing overlap of related items. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of preventing overlap of related items (figure 4).

Claim 14:

The Rajaraman reference teaches a method of information linking (column 6, lines 26-63), comprising:

- (a) Hyperlinking related graphs of visualizable large interrelated data sets (column 6, lines 26-63); and
- (b) Navigating between hyperlinked related graphs (column 6, lines 26-63).

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9. Claim 15:

The claim 15 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claims 1, 8 and 13. The claim 15 is subject to the same reasons given in claims 1, 8 and 13.

Claim 16:

The claim 16 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 15 except additional claimed limitation of expressing closeness along shaped segments, emanating from j's position. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of expressing closeness along shaped segments, emanating from j's position (figure 4).

Claim 17:

The claim 17 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 16 except additional claimed limitation of curved segments. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of curved segments (figure 4).

10. Claim 18:

The claim 18 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claims 1, 5-8, 11, 13 and 15. The claim 18 is subject to the same reasons given in claims 1, 5-8, 11, 13 and 15.

11. Claim 19:

The claim 19 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claims 1, 5-8, 11, 13 and 15. The claim 19 is subject to the same reasons given in claims 1, 5-8, 11, 13 and 15.

12. Claim 20:

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The claim 20 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claims 15 and 18. The claim 19 is subject to the same reasons given in claims 15 and 18.

13. Claim 21:

The claim 21 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claims 1, 5-8, 11, 13 and 15. The claim 21 is subject to the same reasons given in claims 1, 5-8, 11, 13 and 15.

Claim 22:

The claim 22 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 21 except additional claimed limitation of laying out graphs. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of laying out graphs (column 6, lines 26-63).

14. Claim 23:

The claim 23 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 21 except additional claimed limitation of populating a list of related items. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of populating a list of related items (column 6, lines 26-63).

15. Claim 24:

The claim 24 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claims 5 and 14 except additional claimed limitation of a chart server. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of a chart server (figure 2, and column 4, lines 55-65).

Other limitations are subject to the same reasons as given in claims 5 and 14.

16. Claim 25:

The claim 25 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 1 except additional claimed limitation of an affinity server. However, the Rajaraman reference

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further discloses the claimed limitation of an affinity server (figure 2, and column 4, lines 55-65). Other limitations are subject to the same reasons as given in claim 1.

17. Claim 26:

The claim 26 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 15 except additional claimed limitation of a computer readable medium. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of a computer readable medium (column 13, lines 36-67). Other limitations are subject to the same reasons as given in claim 15.

18. Claim 27:

The claim 27 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 15 except additional claimed limitation of a system. However, the Rajaraman reference further discloses the claimed limitation of a system (figure 2, and column 4, lines 55-65). Other limitations are subject to the same reasons as given in claim 15.

Conclusion

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Nikolovska et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6,484,164 discloses a user interface for querying and displaying records from a database employing a physical metaphor for the process of constructing queries and viewing results.

b. Levin et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6,434,556 discloses a method and system for presenting a visual representation of search results relating to information on a computer network.

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c. Conklin et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6,363,378 discloses an information retrieval system that processes user input queries and identifies query feedback including ranking.

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (703) 605-1213.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-6606 for regular communications and (703) 308-6606 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 395-3900.

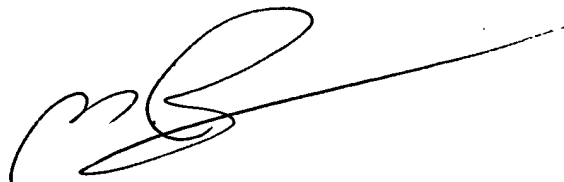
jcw

January 23, 2003

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke that extends to the right.

MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600